

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
 - receiving a telephone number portion identifying a device;
 - converting the telephone number portion into a multiple level domain name identifying the device over a network, the multiple level domain name comprising a plurality of domains corresponding to the telephone number portion and a base portion, where the plurality of domains corresponding to the telephone number portion are arranged in an order corresponding to the telephone number portion; and
 - establishing communication with the device via the multiple level domain name over the network.
2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, where the telephone number portion of the multiple level domain name is subordinated to the base portion.
3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2, where the base portion of the multiple level domain name comprises a base level domain.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, where the converting step comprises:
 - adding domain separators to the received telephone number portion at determinable locations in the received telephone number portion.
5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, where the received telephone number portion comprises a separator, the converting step comprising:
 - parsing the received telephone number portion for the separator; and
 - inserting a domain separator for the parsed separator.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

appending additional domain levels to the converted telephone number portion to complete the multiple level domain name.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating over a network comprising:

receiving from a first device a static, multiple level domain name at least partially derived from a telephone number portion identifying a second device the multiple level domain name being arranged in an order corresponding to that of the telephone number portion;

determining availability of the second device on the network; and

in response to the determining step, selectively establishing communications from the first device to the second device.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

establishing communications from the second device to the first device.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7, where the determining availability step comprises:

querying the second device over the network; and

receiving a response from the second device indicative of second device availability.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to establish communication between at least two devices over a network, the apparatus comprising a processor which receives from a first device a telephone number portion identifying a second device, and which converts the received telephone number portion into a static multiple level domain name identifying the second device on the network while preserving sequencing of the telephone number portion.

11. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, where the processor further establishes

communication with the second device over the network.

12. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a table which matches the static multiple level domain name to an IP address.

13. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, where the processor further adds domain separators to the received telephone number portion at determinable locations to result in the static multiple level domain name.

14. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, where the received telephone number portion comprises a separator, and where the processor parses the received telephone number portion for the separator and inserts a domain separator for selected instances of the parsed separator.